

Wakefield Opposition Still Questionable

By Bob Sandin Spts. Edit. (SH)...

Wakefield High School, about to embark upon a rugged nine-game football schedule next Saturday afternoon, September 18, at 2 o'clock kickoff time against the unknown quantities of George Mason High School, also expects uncertainties from most of its other eight opponents this season.

Looking over the Warriors' schedule the second game on Friday, September 24, against the St. John's Junior Varsity, will undoubtedly test Wakefield right up to the gills since the Johnnies continually enjoy large turnouts in all sports. The St. John's Junior Varsity, for this reason alone, is bound to be above average for the usual high school JV squad, and coming early in the season, Wakefield should expect to have its hands full.

Against Annandale High School the following week on Saturday, October 2, the Warriors will be

confronted with a football team making its first outing the same as Wakefield did last season. In fact, although the brand new Fairfax County High School may come up with some familiar faces from the realm of the Warriors' acquaintances with former Fairfax High School and Mt. Vernon High School students who will now be attending Annandale, the biggest incentive for building up a natural rivalry will be aimed at Larry Winkler, the school's new head football coach. Winkler taught physical education at Wakefield last year and will be the natural target for working up the desired school spirit. Also at Annandale, as the school's athletic director, will be Johnny Grinnell, a former Washington-Lee High School grid star and until last season the basketball coach at Mt. Vernon High School.

Out at Falls Church High School where the Warriors will be making

their first road trip of the season on Saturday afternoon, October 9, the Group I Jaguars can be expected to provide plenty of trouble. Falls Church with its heretofore limited enrollment, has in the past been looked down upon by other area schools as a perennial "weak sister" opponent in football. Reports to date indicate that the Jaguars lost over two-thirds of their 1953 squad from graduation and otherwise, but have at the same time picked up some hefty contenders transferring into the Falls Church community.

Garfield High School, from the vicinity of Occoquan, Va., comes to Wakefield for the Saturday, October 16, game and will have to be watched from a comparative-scores basis against other common opponents. Wakefield's best insight to Garfield's strength, or weakness, will result from the scores of nearby Herndon High School which will meet George Mason on October 1, and then Garfield on October 8, both prior to the Wakefield game.

Herndon is next on the Warrior slate the following Saturday, October 23, after having played two of Wakefield's previous foes. Last season the Warriors started off with a bang, by bumping Herndon, 56-6, and with no apparent changes for the better at Herndon, Wakefield should be favored in the 1954 encounter.

On the following Friday afternoon, October 29, the George Washington High School Junior Varsity will be on hand to try and even the score after last season's 26-6 loss to then new Warrior tenth graders. This season the Alexandria school has enjoyed a total turnout for football greater than that at Washington-Lee, with both schools drawing over 100 candidates. Reports have revealed a strong Sophomore squad is in the making at George Washington, which will mean the Warriors may have trouble with the Junior Prexies, not encountered in 1953.

Mt. Vernon High School, the other Group I foe, although doubtless hampered by the loss of many of its possible candidates to the new Annandale High School, is still to be recognized as a well-organized, seasoned competitor. The game will be staged at Mt. Vernon, on Friday night, November 5, and should attract a good following, also from the standpoint that the Majors present a fine supporting cast with a good marching band and male and female cheerleaders. Wakefield got off on the right foot last season with its pep band and a talented and attractive squad of cheerleaders which will now become more and more a part of the Warriors' games both at home and on the road.

Finally an Armistice Day game with its most natural rival, the Washington-Lee High School Junior Varsity, will take place at the Little Generals' field on November 11, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. This ninth and last game of the season would indicate that the 1955 football game between the then Group I Wakefield team and the regular Washington-Lee varsity will fall on the second week in November next year, to take the place of the Generals' 1954 game with Hampton, and will be slated for the new Wakefield High School home field.

The whole 1954 season will be devoted to building up the Wakefield - Washington-Lee Junior Varsity clash this year, and since the Warriors lost the first football game in the history of their school after six straight wins, by a 20-7 score to the Little Generals last November, plenty of good-natured, home-spun rivalry is on tap for the 1954 game. Wakefield expects to be at a better advantage this season with its added 11th grade enrollments while the Washington-Lee ranks are again star-studded throughout.